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General Assembly

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Sixty-eighth session
Item 136 of the preliminary list*
Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

Request for a subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research resulting from the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the Institute on the work programme of the Institute for 2014-2015

Note by the Secretary-General

Summary

In part IV, paragraph 2, of its resolution 60/248, the General Assembly endorsed the proposal that the request for a subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) be submitted for review and approval by the Assembly on a biennial basis in the context of its consideration of the proposed programme budget for the related biennium.

In that context, and in accordance with the provisions of the statute (see resolution 39/148 H, annex, article VIII, para. 3) and the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the Institute, the General Assembly is requested to approve a subvention in the amount of $577,800 for UNIDIR from the regular budget of the United Nations for the biennium 2014-2015. The related provision is included under section 4, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 (A/68/6 (Sect. 4)).

* A/68/50.

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1. At its fifty-ninth session, the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, in its capacity as the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), approved, for submission to the General Assembly, the report of the Director of the Institute on its activities for the period from August 2012 to May 2013 and the proposed programme of work and estimated resource requirements for 2013 and 2014. The present report is submitted to the Assembly in the context of its consideration of a subvention to UNIDIR for 2014-2015 from the regular budget of the United Nations. As a result of the timing of the preparation of the two reports, the financial information contained in the annexes to the present report is similar to the information included in the annexes to the report of the Director of the Institute. Updated financial information of the Institute will be provided to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions at the time of its review of the two reports.

2. In the aforementioned report of the Director of UNIDIR, the Board of Trustees recommended continuation of a subvention from the United Nations regular budget. Such a subvention is important for ensuring the independence of the Institute.

3. The proposed programme budget of the United Nations for the biennium 2014-2015, under section 4, Disarmament (A/68/6 (Sect. 4)), contains a provision of $577,800, representing the United Nations subvention to UNIDIR for the biennium. This amount will be subject to subsequent recosting in accordance with the established procedures.

4. Under section IV of General Assembly resolution 44/201 B, entitled "Subvention from the regular budget to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research", the Secretary-General is required to report annually to the Assembly on the situation of the Institute. In this context, the financial situation of the Institute (details of which are included in annexes I to III of the present note) may be summarized as follows:

(a) Funds available at the beginning of 2013 amounted to $1,998,700. This figure includes an amount of $322,100 required as an operating cash reserve;

(b) Total income for 2013 is estimated at $1,996,200 from the following sources: voluntary contributions and public donations ($1,656,900); interest and miscellaneous income ($20,000); inter-organizational contributions ($18,100); and the subvention from the United Nations regular budget ($301,200). It is also estimated that of the total voluntary contributions and public donations, approximately 74 per cent will be used for special projects and 26 per cent for other purposes, including administrative costs;

(c) Total estimated expenditure for 2013 is $3,084,600, including a provision of $144,200 for programme support costs. Requirements for 2014 are estimated at $1,501,400 inclusive of $57,700 for programme support costs;

(d) Available funds at the beginning of 2014 are estimated at $770,000, inclusive of an amount of $334,700 as an operating cash reserve.

5. It is recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 60/248, endorsed the proposal that the request for a subvention to the Institute be submitted for review and approval by the Assembly on a biennial basis in the context of its consideration of the proposed programme budget for the related biennium.

6. Accordingly, the General Assembly is requested to approve a subvention to UNIDIR of $577,800 (before recosting) from the regular budget of the United Nations for the biennium 2014-2015, the provision for which has been included under section 4, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium.

Annex I

Income and expenditure estimates for 2013-2014

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Item	*2013 (estimates)*	*2014 (estimates)*
A. Funds available at the beginning of the year	1 998.7[a]	770.0[b]
B. Income:		
Voluntary contributions and public donations	1 656.9[c]	603.3[d]
Subvention from the United Nations regular budget	301.2	288.9[e]
Other inter-organizational contributions	18.1[c]	–
Interest and miscellaneous income	20.0	18.0
Total income	**1 996.2**	**910.2**
C. Total funds available	3 994.9	1 680.2
D. Refunds to donors	140.3[f]	–
E. Expenditure	3 084.6	1 501.4
F. Fund balance at end of year	**770.0**	**178.8**

[a] Includes $322,100 required as an operating cash reserve for 2012.
[b] Includes $334,700 required as an operating cash reserve for 2013.
[c] See annex III for details of UNIDIR estimated income from voluntary sources for 2013.
[d] See annex III for details of UNIDIR estimated income from voluntary sources for 2014. The estimates for 2014 are conservative. Experience shows that they will be much higher but this cannot be guaranteed at the time of issuing the present note.
[e] Represents 50 per cent of the subvention provided for in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.
[f] Refund to the European Commission for the project entitled "Supporting the Arms Trade Treaty negotiations through regional discussions and expertise sharing".

Annex II

Estimated resource requirements, 2013-2014

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Resource requirements	*2013[a] (estimates) (1)*	*2014[a] (estimates) (2)*	*Increase/ decrease (2 - 1)*
A. Direct administrative costs:			
Salaries and related costs	742.4	650.4	(92.0)
General temporary assistance	–	–	–
Temporary assistance for meetings	41.0	3.4	(37.6)
Consultants' fees and travel	179.2	10.0	(169.2)
Ad hoc expert groups	74.5	10.0	(64.5)
Other personnel-related costs	1 435.5	707.3	(728.2)
Official travel of staff	198.0	31.0	(167.0)
Other external printing	15.6	1.0	(14.6)
Other specialized training	8.9	2.0	(6.9)
Contractual services	5.0	5.0	–
Hospitality	26.0	2.1	(23.9)
Premises: rental and maintenance	20.1	1.0	(19.1)
Operating expenses	26.7	5.5	(21.2)
Communications	21.8	15.0	(6.8)
Supplies and materials and furniture and equipment	35.7	–	(35.7)
Fellowships, grants and contributions	110.0	–	(110.0)
Total A	**2 940.4**	**1 443.7**	**(1 496.7)**
B. Programme support costs:			
(5 per cent of total A, less United Nations subvention)	144.2	57.7	(86.5)
Total expenditure (A + B)	**3 084.6**	**1 501.4**	**(1 583.2)**
C. Operating cash reserve:			
(15 per cent of expenditure on contributions other than from the European Union, less United Nations subvention and 5 per cent on contributions from the European Union)	334.7	173.2	(161.5)
Grand total (A + B + C)	**3 419.3**	**1 674.6**	**(1 744.7)**

[a] These figures may be increased upon the confirmation of current funding proposals.

Annex III

Income from voluntary sources, 2013-2014

(United States dollars)

Voluntary contributions	*2013*	*2014*[a]
A. Governmental contributions:		
Canada	55 241	–
China	20 000	20 000
Finland	79 576	51 086
Germany	239 593	–
India	9 127	10 000
Indonesia	16 000	10 000
Iraq	4 982	–
Israel	10 000	10 000
Japan	23 585	–
Luxembourg	10 000	10 000
Mexico	3 000	3 000
Netherlands	5 000	–
Norway	272 775	256 366
Pakistan	4 884	5 000
Russian Federation	100 000	100 000
Turkey	4 000	4 000
Serbia	2 000	–
Switzerland	96 182	83 857
United States of America	20 000	20 000
Subtotal A	**975 945**	**583 309**
B. Public donations:		
European Commission	649 867	–
Organisation international de la francophonie	3 234	–
Northeastern University	7 811	–
Simons Foundation	20 000	20 000
Subtotal B	**680 912**	**20 000**
Total voluntary contributions (A + B)	**1 656 857**	**603 309**
C. Interorganization:		
Office for Disarmament Affairs	18 075	–
Subtotal C	**18 075**	**–**
Total (A + B + C)	**1 674 932**	**603 309**

[a] The estimates for 2014 are based on regular annual contributions and there is no guarantee at this stage that donors will continue to provide these funds.